

# HOW'D THEY COVER IT?

## Exploring Journalistic Choices

**Directions:** Choose a news story from the Journalism in Action timeline to examine. Then fill in the chart. In the first column, examine how you think the journalist covered the story. In the second column, share how you would have covered it.

**Reflection:** After students complete the activity, have them pair up to challenge and justify each others' choices.

	HOW DID THEY COVER IT?	HOW WOULD YOU COVER IT?
SOURCES	What facts or evidence are included in this media? Who was interviewed, if anyone? _____	What additional facts would you include in this story? Who else would you interview and why? _____
AUDIENCE	Who is this story's audience and what are their values? How might others react to the story? _____	Who else is impacted by the story that doesn't seem to be part of the audience? _____
STYLE	How does the author attract the reader's attention? What does the author want readers to think or feel? _____	Which techniques would you use to attract the reader's attention? _____
NEWSBEAT & NEWS FORMAT	Is this investigative journalism, news reporting, photojournalism, opinion, or something else? _____	What other kind of media would help you better understand the event? _____
POINT OF VIEW	What beliefs seem important to the journalist? How might their values shape their P.O.V. on the topic? _____	What beliefs are important to you? How might your values shape your P.O.V. on how to cover the topic? _____

**Student Challenge submission:** Summarize your above responses into a paragraph of at least four sentences. Include your best observations about how the topic was covered and how you would have covered it differently.

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